

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The Voter

The official newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Ventura County.

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April 2023

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



March was Women's History Month when the contributions of women, past and present, were recognized and honored. Our League was pleased to receive a Proclamation in honor of Women's History Month from Oxnard Mayor John Zaragoza in his office on March 6th. Several league members were present to accept the Proclamation.

Shortly thereafter, on March 14th our League was given a proclamation in honor of the US League's 103rd birthday by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. This was presented to us following a Moment of Inspiration given by our Vice President, Susan Roth, in which she described the inspiring life of the League's founder, Carrie Chapman Catt as well as the history of the league.



Later in March several league members participated in tours of the Planned Parenthood Clinic in Oxnard. It was interesting to see the clinic, hear about the services they provide and the increasing need for their services. More tours can be arranged if others are interested in attending.

In the middle of March, we became aware of a proposal presented to the County Board of Supervisors by two supervisors to repeal the Ventura County Campaign Finance ordinance which has been in place for 20 years. The League Board held an emergency meeting to discuss what, if any, actions we should take. It was decided to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting that the supervisors delay the vote until such time as an impartial study could be completed. Other actions included a Letter to the Editor of the Ventura Star and reading a statement at the Board of Supervisor meeting held on 3/28/2023. Ultimately the BOS decided to vote on the proposal instead of delaying the vote. The vote was 3:2 in favor of the repeal of the ordinance to be replaced by the State Guidelines which are less stringent. The League Board will be discussing this at our next Board Meeting to be held April 13th, in person at 11am. Please reach out to me at lwvvc.info@gmail.com if you have any comments on this issue.

Happy Spring!

Kathy Morgan, President



County Board of Supervisors

Susan Roth presented a "Moment of Inspiration" to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and the Supervisors presented the LWVVC with a certificate commemorating Women's History Month. The text presented by Susan is available on our

website:

[https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/moment of inspiration vc bos march 2023.docx](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/moment%20of%20inspiration%20vc%20bos%20march%202023.docx).





Members Support

Port Hueneme 75th Anniversary Parade

Port Hueneme celebrated its 75th Anniversary Parade on Saturday, March 25th. Carmen Hurd and Betsy Patterson represented the LWVVC.

COMING EVENTS



Still Time to Register

LWVC Convention

Reservations: [LWVC Convention 2023 \(wordpress.com\)](https://lwwc2023.wordpress.com)

Online registration opened **March 1st**

The LWVC Convention is back IN-person IN San Francisco, California! Join us from May 19-21, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Downtown SOMA Hotel.

The LWV California convention provides an opportunity to network with other leagues, gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the California League, and increase your knowledge about your passion through workshops and caucuses.

Full registration plus the Friday evening banquet is \$495.00. The hotel costs \$229-\$239 per night. The LWVVC will subsidize part of the expense of members attending. Receipts must be submitted to Karen Savitt by June 25th. Some members are planning to drive, so ride sharing is available.



LWVVC Annual General Meeting

Saturday, June 10, 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

River Ridge Golf Club

2401 W. Vineyard Ave., Oxnard, CA 93036

Contact: lwvvc.info@gmail.com

Save the Date: The LWVVC Annual General Meeting will be hosted by the LWVVC Board and *free of charge*. We are looking at several exciting options for a speaker. The

Annual Meeting is an opportunity for the members to hear what the League has been doing and vote on the activities we will pursue - our Program - in the coming year. We will also elect officers and approve the budget for next year. We hope our Scholarship recipients will join us and share their future plans. Look for more information in the Annual Call in May.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES & COMING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, April 5th, 5:30 pm - Happy Hour, **IN PERSON** at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001. Please note the earlier time. RSVP to [Matty Park](#). [Members and guests are welcome.](#)

Sunday, April 9th – Happy Easter!



Thursday, April 13th, 11:00am - **In person Board Meeting**, Ventura College of Law, 4475 Market Street, Ventura. [Members and guests are welcome.](#) Please join us. RSVP to [Kathy Morgan](#).



Wednesday, April 19th, 5:30pm –Happy Hour on Zoom (3rd Wednesday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#)-[Members and guests are welcome.](#)

Thursday, April 20th, 4:00pm – Race and Social Justice Committee (3rd Thursday of the month) hosted by [Kay Armstrong](#).

Saturday, April 22nd - Happy Earth Day!



Thursday, April 27th, 3:00pm – Climate Change Committee meets on the 4th Thursday of the month. Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)



May 18-21, 2023 - LWVC Statewide Convention in San Francisco. The Convention will be in-person at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco, Downtown Soma. (Soma means south of Market Street.) Mark your calendars! The LWVVC will subsidize the cost of attending the convention.

Saturday, June 10, 10:30 am -1:30 pm - Annual General Meeting, River Ridge Golf Club, 2401 W. Vineyard Ave., Oxnard, CA 93036. Mark your calendars!
Contact: lwvvc.info@gmail.com for reservations.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES



Be a Part of the Greater League

Participate in LWVUS and LWVC.

Sign up for Updates and League Groups

For All League Members

Updates from [LWVUS](#) and [LWVC](#).

LWVC Google and Facebook Groups - The LWVC has several different interest groups, they include: Advocacy, Communications, Voter Service, Climate Change, Criminal Justice Reform, Healthcare, Homeless, Immigration, Money in Politics, Program Planning, Redistricting, Schools and Communities First, and Water. For details see the [Join an Online Discussion Group](#).



Observer Report

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Observers Reporting: Doris Simmelink & Cheryl Collart

Dear Members,

Many of you are aware of actions by the LWVVC to speak out against an unprecedented move by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to repeal a decades old campaign finance ordinance that set limits on

individual contributions in our local county elections. I would like to commend the LWWVC board for its quick response and thoughtful nonpartisan statement from our President, Kathy Morgan, at the March 28th public hearing. The League requested the Board delay a vote in order to allow an independent study of the modifications. Approximately 15 league members were there as observers.

The majority of the speakers at the board meeting were opposed to this action and suggested possible amendments rather than a total repeal. Speakers noted the Board appeared rushed and these actions raise concerning questions about timing and purpose.

After two hours of public comment, Supervisor Gorell presented a PowerPoint presentation supporting repeal, and the other four supervisors made brief comments to support their positions. The final vote was 3 – 2 in favor of repeal.

The result of this repeal is that campaigns for county elected offices (Board of Supervisors, Assessor, Auditor, Clerk-Recorder, District Attorney, Sheriff, Superintendent of Schools, and Tax Collector) will now be subject to the *CA State Fair Political Practices Commission* rules and limits. This raises contribution amounts from \$750 to \$5,500. Our County Campaign Finance Ethics Commission has also been eliminated.

I encourage the League to form a study group on the effects of this action and continue observing BOS activities. As our President stated in her letter to the BOS, the League "... believes that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible."

Thank you,
Doris Simmelink

In light of recent actions by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, the following links provide an overview of county structure and the powers of its officials and might be helpful in understanding their role in our local government:

<https://www.counties.org/general-information/county-structure-0>
[https://www.counties.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/tab_2 -
_county government in california 0.pdf](https://www.counties.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/tab_2_-_county_government_in_california_0.pdf)

https://vcportal.ventura.org/ceo/docs/County_of_Ventura_Operating_Procedures_for_Board_of_Supervisors_Meetings_and_Agendas.pdf



Climate Committee

4TH Thursday of the month

3pm on Zoom

Contact: [Wayne Morgan](#)

Have you thought about reducing your carbon footprint? Would you like some tips or help? Well, Earth Day is celebrated this month and there are lots of opportunities to learn and participate in helping our planet. One local event is the "Fourteenth Annual Earth Day Tour of the Government Center" April 21, 12 noon. Link: <https://www.ventura.org/general-services-agency/earthday/> Search the internet for other Earth Day events near you.

Come join in the conversation to learn more about climate mitigation, adaptation and how you can help to create a more sustainable planet. To join in, contact [Wayne Morgan](#).



Racial and Social Justice Committee and DEI Committee

3rd Thursday of the month

4:00pm on Zoom

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#) or [Laura Hernandez](#)

We met March 16th and are planning to vote on our projected goals at our next meeting on April 20th. If you are interested in joining with us please contact either Kay Armstrong or Laura Hernandez.



Scholarship Committee

Contact: [Kay Armstrong](#)

We have not met as a committee this month, but plan a meeting in early April. The scholarship application process at the three colleges has closed or will close soon. We have submitted our funding to them. If you are interested in knowing more about our committee , please join us.



Government 101

Contact: [Patty Chan](#) or [Cheryl Collart](#)

Understanding the Legislative Pathway....

It is the practice of state assembly and senate representatives to participate in various committees that study issues of significance to seek consensus for a given topic and build support for their proposed legislation. The legislation goes through various reviews before it is actually held to a vote.

For members who want to understand and follow the legislative process we suggest this helpful link <https://www.politicopro.com/California%20-%20Guide%20to%20Legislation/POL-06jun2019-CA-Legislation-Guide-r3.pdf>

Additionally, our members can follow various pieces of legislation that have League support by visiting this website: <https://lwvc.org/bill-status-report>

LWVC offers excellent summaries of current bills that it takes a position on and in some cases co-sponsors. These bills cover issues of importance to many of our local league endeavors and should be of interest to the committees our members are involved with, including voting rights, criminal justice, political reform, education and more. It also tracks the extended process of how a bill becomes a law.

To track specific bills throughout the California legislature, please [see go to Bill Search \(ca.gov\)](#). To track bills going through the U.S. legislature, see <https://www.congress.gov/search?q=%7B%22source%22%3A%22legislation%22%7D>

If any members have information or links to other sources they would like to share on any government related topics, please contact us. If you would like to join our group in any capacity, we would like to hear from you as well.



Voter Registration Committee - High School, College & Community Events

Contact: info@lwvventuracounty.org or leave a message at (805) 303-1476.

Carmen Hurd arranged voter registration at Oxnard Middle College in March. Condor HS's principal Mark Contreras was excited about using resources that Carmen sent him for an online registration event; it is an independent study school, so there are no classrooms for us to visit.

Ventura and Nordhoff Social Science teachers declined our offer to visit the classrooms in the Spring. The same students that took Government classes in the Fall are taking Economics this Spring. However, the Ventura HS Leadership Director said the ASB students were interested in trying to hold a student-led, campus-wide voter registration/education event. Cindy Garcia arranged a meeting with the ASB President who was enthusiastic about this project and is looking into a virtual training offered by The Civics Center in Los Angeles. We offered to support and help them wherever we are needed.

Nominations Committee

Contact: Cheryl Collart



The Nominations Committee is in the final stages of contacts with members who are interested in serving on the League Board or lending support and leadership to various committees. Please contact [Cheryl Collart](#), committee chairperson if you have questions about the process or have a desire to serve.

We are seeking a new **Membership Director** to start the position as of July 1st. The position requires a working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and Word (or Numbers and Words for Mac). Mentoring, Spreadsheets, detailed Work Instructions with when and how to do each task, form letters and formats are all available. You will not need to reinvent the wheel. For more information about this position, please contact [Pat Butler](#)

Budget Committee

Contact: Cheryl Collart



The Budget Committee continues to prepare a budget for the coming program year. The budget will be adopted at the June Annual Membership meeting. Any member with a question about how the League's budget is organized and what plans are being made for the coming years should contact [Cheryl Collart](#), committee chairperson.



Bylaws Committee

Contact: [Pat Butler](#)

The Bylaws Committee met March 21st on Zoom and updated the bylaws with minimal changes. If you want to know about the inner workings of the League, this is the place for you. Anyone interested in serving on the Bylaws Committee, please contact [Pat Butler](#). We will also be reviewing Work Instructions and Policies and Procedures in the coming months.



Happy Hour – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays

1st Wednesday @ 5:30pm, IN PERSON at Aloha Steakhouse, 364 S California Street, Ventura, CA 93001. Please note the earlier time. Please RSVP to [Matty Park](#).

3rd Wednesday @ 5:30pm, hosted on Zoom. Please RSVP to [Kay Armstrong](#).

Not just for new members – **everyone is welcome, including guests.** Join us for an informal conversation about all things LWVVC. Interested in becoming more involved in our mission of "Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy"? Come, learn about what we're doing and how you can help.



You don't have to be a League member to join. Come for five minutes, the whole hour or anywhere in between. We hope to see you there! **You are welcome to attend either or both Happy Hours.** Please register with the host in advance.

There are two opportunities to attend. Choose one or both. If you would like to have an in-person Meet the Members in your area, please let us know.



Membership

WELCOME NEWEST MEMBERS: We warmly welcome our newest member, Jenny Marek of Ventura.

ALL NEW MEMBERS: Please contact any officer, board member, or committee chair to volunteer for the activities that spark your interest. You can be partnered with an experienced member if you like. We will help you learn what you need to know. And please sign up for whatever committees you would like to participate in by contacting the committee chair to be invited to meetings. Do as much or as little as you like. We look forward to your participation.

RENEWING MEMBERS: Many thanks and gratitude to our members who have renewed their membership and to those who have made an additional contribution toward the expenses of operating the LWVVC.

To join or renew your membership you can find our membership form and online payment option [here](#). Or you can send a check to P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006. Your support is critical!



In Remembrance

Connie Baer was a long-time member and supporter of the LWVVC. She passed on February 18th. She leaves behind her two daughters, Kathleen Sage and Marianne Baer; her two granddaughters, Aubrey and Lindey Sage; her son-in-law Charles Michael Sage; and many dear friends who will miss her tenacity, her courage and her generosity.

Connie moved from Pasadena to the cooler climes of Ventura with her longtime partner Rita Marsh. Her love of “fighting the good fight” continued as she poured her efforts into gay rights and legalizing gay marriage (she and Rita were officially married in 2008). In addition to her law practice, she served many years on the board of the Ventura County Medical Resource Foundation, helping to raise much needed funds for the hospital and their outreach programs, and was honored for her efforts in 2015, receiving their Trailblazer Award for her commitment to social justice and health care for all residents. She also received recognition for being the Board’s longest serving member. A lifelong Episcopalian, she was an active and supportive member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Ventura, serving on their Pastoral Care Committee. Connie had a long life devoted to service and was loved by and will be missed by many.

Ventura County Information

For all relevant news about Ventura County, go to:

<https://www.ventura.org/>. Find out how to view Board of Supervisor agendas, documents, broadcasts, and videos. Connect with County services.

LEAGUE INFORMATION

[Join or Renew Form | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here)

The dues rates for 2022-2023 are:

Individual Membership	\$75.00
Student Membership	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$125.00
Associate Membership	\$25.00



Join at: <https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here>
OR make your check payable to LWVVC and send it to
P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

Membership Scholarships available with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Contributions Welcome

[Donate | MyLO \(lwv.org\)](https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here)

Tax deductible donations may be made to:

- General Fund
- Scholarship Fund
- Ann Gist Voter Education Fund
- Ann Gist Scholarship Fund

Please send checks to LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006, or donate online [here](https://my.lwv.org/california/ventura.county/join.league.or.renew.here). If you wish to donate in remembrance of someone, please include their name and a few lines about their life. Please specify the fund you want to support. Thank you.

Raise Awareness of the League

Wear a **LWVVC Shirt** to all our public functions. Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL. Donation of \$20.00 or more requested. For shirts, please contact [Karen Savitt](#).





Making Democracy Work...

Please join us!

Membership Form Available online.

Website: LwvVenturaCounty.org

Email: info@lwvVenturaCounty.org

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVVenturaCounty>

Mailing Address: LWVVC, P.O. Box 6786, Ventura, CA 93006

Phone Number: (805) 303-1476



Facebook: [@lwvventuraco](https://www.facebook.com/lwvventuraco)



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LwvVentura>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lwvofventura/>



Find candidate funding and proposition information on:
<https://votersedge.org/ca>

The League of Women Voters of Ventura County is a 501 (c) 3 organization.

All contributions are tax deductible.

The League of Women Voters, a grassroots non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.